



# consumer news

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## Meat names to be standardized

National Live Stock & Meat Board (an association representing agriculture, meat packers, meat wholesalers, meat distributors & retailers) has decided to do something about the "mind-boggling array of meat cuts" and 610 known names for the variety of cuts. Many of the names refer to the same cut—one particular cut of beef chuck may be known in different parts of the country as boneless eye steak, london broil, market pot roast, market roast, market steak or meat boneless; there are 14 other cuts of beef chuck popularized by 59 other names.

The meat board formed an ad hoc committee in January to revise & write the 2nd edition of "Master List of Meat Names for Retail Meat Identity Labeling." The committee is working to help consumers across the nation by eliminating some of the redundant or confusing names. The committee also may make a decision on whether a store should continue to use its brand name or "fanciful" name for meat cuts.

The fanciful names are used for the retail cuts, which are the specific portions a store's butcher cuts from the primary cuts (also known as primal cuts) made at the slaughterhouse. Names of primary cuts, which are the consumer's clue to tenderness (see CN NOTEBOOK on back page of this issue), are the following:

BEEF—Chuck, rib, loin, tenderloin, sirloin, round, tip, shank, brisket, plate, flank;

PORK—Shoulder, loin, leg, side (belly);

LAMB—Shoulder, rib, loin, leg, sirloin, breast, shank;

VEAL—Shoulder, rib, loin, leg, sirloin, breast, shank.

In addition to studying the fanciful named cuts from these primary cuts, the committee is considering the fanciful names for these other categories of meat products: (1) ground, chopped & cubed meats of beef, pork lamb and/or veal; (2) sausages & specialties; (3) smoked pork; (4) variety meats (external, such as pigs feet); (5) variety meats (internal, such as beef tripe).

If the meat board adopts the committee's recommendations, the board will urge its members (including major supermarket chains) in late summer or early fall to start voluntary use of standardized names of all meat labels. However, standardization of names does not mean that the 610 existing names will be reduced to 300 or 100, but the meat board does hope to end some confusion by getting rid of some of the fanciful names—such as "Kansas City Strip" & "Chuckwagon Steak"—that tell consumers nothing about the cut of meat.

Agriculture Dept. has been working directly with the meat board & the committee. Office of Consumer Affairs has made the following recommendations on the report:

- Curtailment in the use of store brand names is necessary to diminish any confusion caused by the addition of standardized names. OCA sees more confusion than benefit to consumers if a label states that a steak is "veal shoulder blade steak" as well as states a brand name, such as "OCA's Washingtonian Veal."

- Identity labels must include accurate standards & percentages for fat content (or leanness) of ground beef, for example: "Ground beef 80% lean."

- Proper consumer education is necessary to accompany the changes in meat names. Proper consumer education depends on industry efforts through store displays and advertising.

OCA also has recommended to the meat board that it consider establishing another committee to study which methods of retail merchandising & display (such as packaging of meat) provide the the most complete consumer information and service.

## **CAB enforces ticket compensation rule. . . .**

During 1971 & the first part of 1972, Civil Aeronautics Board received complaints that Trans World Airlines Inc., was not always complying with CAB regulations requiring that refunds be provided to passengers who are "bumped" from flights even though they have confirmed reservations. According to the complaints, TWA failed to provide written information about passenger rights, or failed to make immediate refunds as required by the regulations, in the case of more than 500 passengers. As the result of an investigation, CAB has issued a cease & desist order against TWA & collected an \$87,000 penalty from the airline, the largest ever recovered by the agency in a single proceeding.

The regulations entitle any passenger who has been "bumped" from an oversold flight to be refunded the purchase price of his ticket if the airline cannot reroute him to his destination within 2 hours of his original scheduled arrival time (4 hours on international flights). In getting a refund, you do not have to turn in your ticket; the regulation allows you to keep your ticket for use on a later flight or to redeem it for a refund in addition to the one you already have received.

CAB adopted the regulations in 1967 to discourage airlines from overselling their flights. Consumers can help the agency's enforcement efforts by directing inquiries or complaints to the Office of Consumer Affairs, Civil Aeronautics Board, Washington, DC 20428.

## **. . . . and investigates joint fares**

CAB says that better training for ticket agents and more efficient use of automated fare quotation systems is needed so that passengers will be charged correct fares on flights involving interline connections.

Responding to an article in the May issue of *Consumer Reports*, published by Consumers Union, which alleged that many airline ticket agents do not properly apply CAB's fare construction rules in order to charge passengers the lowest possible rates on flights involving a change from one airline to another, CAB directed U.S. airlines to report on their practices in regard to interline fares. A staff audit by CAB at Washington National Airport showed 20 overcharges and 5 undercharges out of 171 interline tickets reviewed.

As a possible solution in addition to encouraging better ticket construction procedures, CAB says it may adopt rules requiring more joint fares to be published, thereby removing the need for ticket agents to construct them individually each time.

Consumers can verify the correct fare on an interline flight by writing to the airline that filled out the ticket. Copies of correspondence, including requests for a refund on an overcharge, may be sent to Office of Consumer Affairs, Civil Aeronautics Board, Washington, DC 20428.

## **Coast Guard authorizes boating accident study**

Marine Dept. of Underwriters' Laboratory, under contract from the Coast Guard, is investigating about 40 boating accidents this summer to determine design or engineering deficiencies that contribute to 4 kinds of accidents: fires, explosions, swampings & capsizings. Coast Guard will use the accident information as background in writing standards for recreational boats.

UL will screen accident reports to select relevant accidents for in-depth investigations. If you have immediate knowledge of fires or explosions of boats up to 65-feet long or of swampings & capsizings of boats up to 20-feet long (except sailboats & canoes), you may report the accidents to the nearest Coast Guard unit, which will alert UL.

## **Magazine for consumers**

*FDA Consumer* (magazine issued 10 times a year to report and explain Food & Drug Administration's programs and protection for consumers in such areas as nutritional labeling, microwave ovens, toys, medical devices, medicines & cosmetics), published by Food & Drug Administration; available from Consumer Product Information, Washington, DC 20407; subscription \$3.50.

## Labels on laundry & cleaning products change

Food & Drug Administration has announced that makers of 25 household laundry & cleaning products have been required to revise or add cautionary labels during the past year. Adequate cautionary labeling on such products is required by the Federal Hazardous Substances Act to warn against possible injuries that chemicals in the products might cause.

Since June 28, 1971, FDA has tested 38 household laundry & cleaning products. Of these, 25 were found to need revised or additional labeling. The manufacturers have either made or are in the process of making these changes. The following list of makers & their products is categorized by the types of added or revised label information.

### CAUTION: EYE AND SKIN IRRITANT.

Caleo Dishwashing Detergent, Fremont Industries, Shakopee, MN

### CAUTION: EYE IRRITANT.

Ajax, Colgate-Palmolive, New York, NY

Clorox II Bleach, Clorox Co., Oakland, CA

GHD Formula 300 Papillon Dishwashing Detergent, GHZ Enterprises, Buffalo, NY

### CAUTION: HARMFUL IF SWALLOWED. EYE IRRITANT.

Cascade Dishwashing Detergent, Procter & Gamble, Cincinnati

White King Detergent, White King Inc., Los Angeles

### DANGER: INJURIOUS TO EYES.

Spic & Span Cleaner, Procter & Gamble, Cincinnati

### DANGER: MAY CAUSE BURNS TO SKIN AND EYES. HARMFUL IF SWALLOWED.

Federal Dishwashing Detergent, Coast Detergents, Los Angeles

"May be harmful if swallowed" must be added to the front panel of the package.

News Detergent, Purex Corp., Lakewood, CA

Purex Detergent, Purex Corp., Lakewood, CA

"MAY IRRITATE EYES. HARMFUL IF SWALLOWED" should be increased to 12-point type as required by regulations.

Parade Detergent, Stanson Detergent Co., Teaneck, NJ

### WARNING: INJURIOUS TO EYES. HARMFUL IF SWALLOWED.

Cal-Met Detergent, N.B. Purdy, Wauconda, IL

CP-30 Detergent, Associated Chemists, Portland, OR

Cure Detergent, Malco Products, Barberton, OH

De Laval Detergent, Bonewitz Chemical Co., Burlington, IA

Grand Union Detergent, Ultra Chemical Co., Paterson, NJ

HLD Detergent, Chemical Associations Inc., Houston

Imperial Detergent, Imperial Detergent, Corona, CA

Shop Rite New Blue, Theobald Industries, Kearny, NJ

Staff All Purpose White Detergent, Staff Supermarkets, Jericho, NY

Stop & Shop Hi-Power Blue Detergent, Witco Chemical Co., Paterson, NJ

Super Saver Detergent, Witco Chemical Co., Paterson, NJ

Sweetheart Lime Dishwashing Detergent, Purex Corp., Lakewood, CA

### WARNING: INJURIOUS TO EYES. HARMFUL IF SWALLOWED. Read precautions on side panel.

Modway Dishwashing Detergent, Pequaa Industries, Massapequa, NY

"SEVERE IRRITANT. HARMFUL IF SWALLOWED" must be in capital letters, not lower case letters.

Laundry Prep, Douglas Research & Chemical Co., Fraser, MI

## New Federal publications

*All Around You—an Environmental Study Guide*, published by Bureau of Land Management, Interior Dept.; \$1.50; available from Supt. of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402; stock no. 2411-0035.

*Arteriosclerosis Vol. I (report by National Heart & Lung Institute Task Force on Arteriosclerosis)* (general aspects of arteriosclerosis—commonly known as hardening of arteries—conclusions & recommendations), published by National Institutes of Health; 50¢; available from Supt. of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402.

*Arteriosclerosis Vol. II (report by National Heart & Lung Institute Task Force on Arteriosclerosis)* technical information on current state of knowledge; conclusions & recommendations), published by National Institutes of Health; \$2.75; available from Supt. of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402.

*Flammable Fabrics & Other Fire Hazards to Older Americans* (hearing before the Senate's Special Committee on Aging), published by Special Committee on Aging; 40¢; available from Supt. of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402; stock no. 5270-1363.

*Know Your Rights Under the Fair Credit Reporting Act: a Checklist for Consumers*, published by Federal Trade Commission; 10¢; available from Supt. of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402; stock no. 1800-0138.



## CN Notebook

Dear Consumer:

You probably have already read the story on the front page of CONSUMER NEWS about standardization of meat names. I want to add to that story by pointing out here in our new column, "CN NOTEBOOK," that you can save money by buying beef according to the kind of primary cut it is rather than buying according to fanciful names that may suggest cuts that are better than they actually are. For example, london broil & eye of round may have sort of a "better cut" or "more expensive" connotation because we associate those fanciful names with relatively expensive items we have seen on restaurant menus. However, the primary cut name for london broil is chuck, & the primary name for eye of round is round.

By ignoring the fanciful names & buying by the names of primary cuts, you can get some good buys. Chuck, round & flank may not be considered to be as flavorful as higher priced cuts, but by seasoning & cooking them properly, you can have a very good meal for less money.

To learn more about primary cuts & to get some cooking tips, you may want to order Agriculture Dept.'s 2 booklets—*How to Buy Beef Roasts* & *How to Buy Beef Steaks*, which sell for 10¢ each—from Supt. of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402.

From time to time I hope to have more shopping tips for you in CN NOTEBOOK. The following are some tips from CONSUMER NEWS readers. If you have some ideas for other readers, send them to CN NOTEBOOK, Office of Consumer Affairs, Washington, DC 20506.

The most frequent shopping advice I have received from readers is probably the best guide for keeping within your food budget: "Never go food shopping when you're hungry" is the advice of Margaret Holmes of Eustis, FL; Barbara Wolfe of Dallas; Janet Speth of Rockville, MD; Eve S. Widdows of Yonkers, NY.

Mrs. Virgil G. Heminger of Auburn, WA, writes: "Avoid buying chicken in parts—buy the whole bird. Especially avoid buying drumsticks separately."

*Virginia Knauer*

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